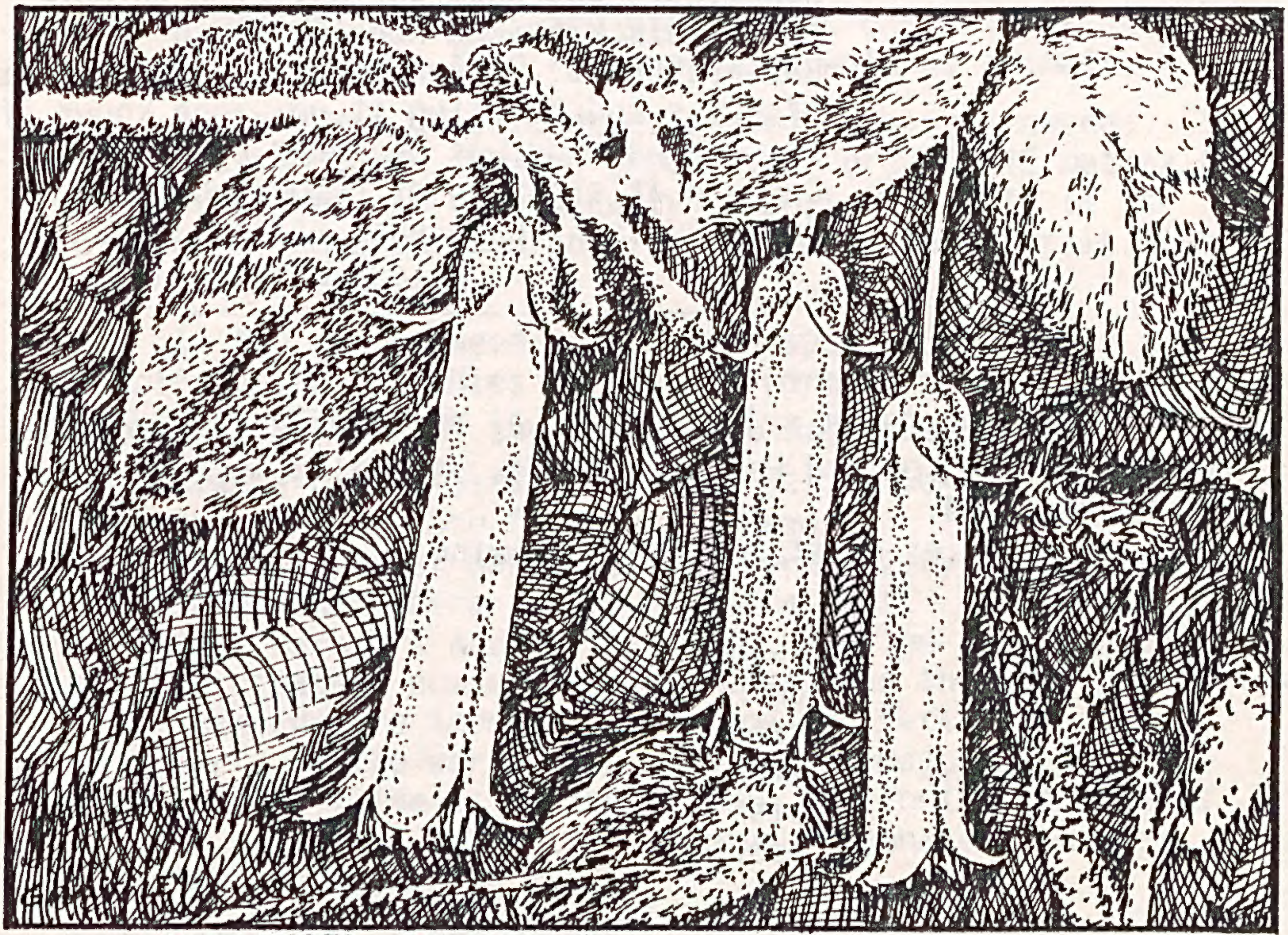
Field Naturalists Club of Ballarat

December, 1983.

EXCURSION - NEWS SHEET

Meeting	2nd December,	"Correasin Australia", Speaker: Dr. R. Anderson.
Meeting	3rd February,	"Alaska and North America", Speaker: Dr. R. Jelleff.
Excursion	4th December,	Blackwood Leader: Dr. F. Harrap.
Excursion	5th February,	Otway Waterfalls, Leader: Mrs. M. Rotheram.



HAIRY CORREA *Correa aemula*

President: Dr F. HARRAP	Phone 301651
Vice-pres: Mr W. MURPHY	Phone 323289
Secretary: Miss H. BURGESS	Phone 312210
Treasurer: Mrs F. WILLIAMSON	Phone 327631
Editor: Mrs P. MURPHY	Phone 323289

Meetings at Education Centre
Hopetoun St 7.30pm

EXCURSIONS, AS SPECIFIED, COMMENCE FROM CROCKERS, Cnr. STURT and ARMSTRONG STREETS, BALLARAT. AT 9.30 am FOR FULL DAY OUTINGS, OR AT 1.30 pm FOR HALF DAY.

REPORTS: November Meeting.

Mrs. M. Rotheram - Between Cressy and Rokewood, banded plover with young. One parent behaving like a policeman - one wing up, the other down while young were escorted across the road.

Mr. R. Thomas - Leaden flycatcher and white throated warblers at Linton.

Mr. P. Fry - Red wattle birds nesting at Wendouree.

Mr. K. Hammond - B.O.C. Excursion- 50 species recorded- painted honeyeaters at Mt.Erip. Peregrine falcons- 2 chicks male and female at Devils Kitchen.

Miss. H. Burgess - Reported hearing of scrub wren, crescent honeyeater and what was believed to have been a black headed honeyeater in Ballarat East. Raven burying a bone in pile of grass and covering it up - not known if it came back or was devoured by a cat. Concern at sighting of removal of rocks from Devils Kitchen near falcon area.

Nominations for office bearers for 1984-5 are required for the meeting on 3rd February, 1984. Annual Meeting Friday, 2nd March, 1984.

Vacancies exist for the following:-

President
Vice President
Secretary
Editor
Typist
Executive

SEAWEEDS

Dr. M. Clayton of the Department of Botany at Monash University, was our guest speaker at the November meeting.

She spoke on a very interesting and important subject that most of us know very little about.

Seaweeds, unlike our land weeds, are really algae.

There are also sea-grasses and these are flowering plants. The seaweed is a structurally simple plant without roots or leaves and has primitive methods of reproduction.

They are divided into three major color classes - red, brown and green, which is the basis for classification. There is great variation in sea plants. Some are perennial and some annual, while some are epiphytic, e.g. Hormosira banksii.

Seaweeds are very beautiful, e.g. the sea lettuce.

This green sea plant occurs in a wide range of subtidal and intertidal habitats and often grows quite luxuriantly.

It is used as food for humans as well as animals.

"Kelp" is a generic name applied to many seaweeds. "Bull Kelp" of the brown seaweed group may grow to 12 metres from its anchorage. An economically important plant, it is collected and processed on King Island in Bass Strait from where it is exported.

In the red seaweed group, one species is highly calcified and resembles coral. It forms a pink crust over rocks and plants and is often growing in shaded places.

Plants of the Sargassum genus belong to the brown group and many of these are floating seaweeds.

One species of Sargassum has spread very rapidly in the English Channel where it has become a pest.

Many harbours around the world have the same seaweeds and the greatest number of species grow in the cooler climates.

Seaweeds are important for food and fertilizer and in many parts of the world seaweeds form a major part of the diet. Their value is in the vitamin and iodine as well as protein content. In addition Sodium algenate is a very important homogenizing agent.

Many thanks go to Dr. Margaret Walker for providing a very interesting night.

L. Fink.

PLANT LIST - Long Forest Rd., (Coimadai Forest), 16/10/83

(continued from November Newsletter)

AIZOACEAE	Carpobrotus modestus - Inland Noon-flower
APIACEAE	Hydrocotyle laxiflora - Stinking Pennywort
ASTERACEAE	*Arctotheca calendula - Cape Weed
	Cassinia arctuta - Drooping Cassinia
	Cassinia longifolia - Shiny Cassinia
	Cotula australis - Common Cotula
	Gnaphalium indutum - Tiny Cudweed
	Gnaphalium sphaericum - Common Cudweed
	Helipterum australe - Common Sunray
	Lagenifera hueglii -Coarse Lagenifera
	Senecio minimum - Shrubby Fireweed
	*Sonchus asper - Rough Sow Thistle
	*Sonchus oleraceus - Sow Thistle
	Stuartina muelleri - Spoon Cudweed
CAMPANULACEAE	Wahlenbergia communis - Tufted Bluebell
	Wahlenbergia gracilenta - Annual Bluebell
CARYOPHYLLACEAE	*Cerastium glomeratum - Common Mouse-ear Chickweed
	*Polycarpon tetraphyllum - Four-leaf Allseed
	*Silene sp. - Catchfly
	*Stellaria pallida - Lesser Starwort
	Stellaria pungens - Prickly Starwort
	*Petrorhagia velutina - Hairy, Pink
CHENOPODIACEAE	Enchylaena tomentosa - Ruby Saltbush
	Rhagodia hastata - Saloop Saltbush
	Rhagodia nutans - Nodding Saltbush
	Rhagodia parabolica - Fragrant Saltbush
CONVOLVULACEAE	Dichondra repens - Kidney Weed
CRASSULACEAE	Crassula colorata - Dense Crassula
	Crassula decumbers - Spreading Crassula
	Crassula sieberana - Sieber Crassula
EPACRIDACEAE	Brachyloma daphnoides - Daphne Heath
	Lissanthe strigosa - Peach Heath
EUPHORBIACEAE	Poranthera microphylla -Small Poranthera
FABACEAE	Dillwynia sericea - Showy, Parrot-pea
	Eutaxia microphylla - Common Eutaxia
	Hardenbergia violacea - Purple Coral-pea
	Pultenaea daphnoides- Large-leaf Bush-pea
	Pultenaea pedunculata - Matted Bush-pea
	*Trifolium arvense - Hare's-foot Clover
	*Trifolium campestre - Hop Clover
	*Trifolium glomeratum - Cluster Clover
FUMARIACEAE	*Fumaria bastardii - Fumitory
GERANIACEAE	*Erodium cicutarium - Common Herons-bill
	"Geranium molle - Dove's -foot
	*Geranium solanderi - Cut-leaf Crane's-bill
	Pelargonium australe - Austral Stork's-bill
	Pelargonium inodorum - Kopata
GOODENIACEAE	Goodenia ovata - Hop Goodenia
LAURACEAE	Cassytha melantha - Coarse Dodder-laurel
LOBELIACEAE	Lobelia gibbosa - Tall Lobelia
LORANTHACEAE	Amyema miquellii - Box Mistletoe
MALVACEAE	Lavatera plebeia - Australian Hollyhock
MIMOSACEAE	Acacia acinacea - Gold-dust Wattle
	Acacia mearnsii - Late Black Wattle
	Acacia pycnantha - Golden Wattle
	Acacia retinodes - Wirilda
	Acacia verticillata - Prickly, Moses
MYRTACEAE	Callistemon paludosus - River Bottlebrush
	Eucalyptus bauerana - Blue Box
	Eucalyptus behriana - Bull Mallee
MYRTACEAE (cont.)	Eucalyptus goniocalyx - Bundy
	Eucalyptus leucoxylon - Yellow Gum
	Eucalyptus melliodora - Yellow Box
	Eucalyptus microcarpa - Grey Box
	Eucalyptus polyanthemos - Red Box
	Eucalyptus viminalis - Manna Gum
	Leptospermum lanigerum - Woolly Tea-tree
	Melaleuca lanceolata - Moonah
OXALIDACEAE	Oxalis corniculata - Yellow Wood -sorrel
	*Oxalis pescaprae - Soursob
PITTOSPORACEAE	Billardiera cymosa - Sweet Apple-berry
	Bursaria spinosa - Sweet Bursaria
PLANTAGINACEAE	Plantago varia - Variable Plantain
POLYGONACEAE	Rumex brownii - Slender Dock
PORTULACACEAE	Caladrina calyptrata - Pink Purslane
PRIMULACEAE	*Anagellis arvensis - Pimpernel
RANUNCULACEAE	Clematis microphylla - Small Leaved Clematis
	Ranunculus sessiliflorus - Annual Buttercup
ROSACEAE	Aphanes australiana - Australian Piert
RUBIACEAE	*Galium murale - Cleavers
SANTALACEAE	Exocarpos cupressiformis - Cherry Ballart
SAPINDACEAE	Dodonea angustissima - Narrow-leaf Hop-bush
SCROPHULARIACEAE	Veronica plebeia - Eastern Speedwell
SOLANACEAE	Lycium ferocissimum - African Box-thorn
	Nicotiana suaveolens - Austral Tobacco
	Solanum aviculare - Kangaroo Apple
	*Solanum nigrum - Black Nightshade
STACKHOUSIACEAE	Stackhousia monogyna - Candles
STERCULIACEAE	Lasiopetalum behrii - Pink Velvet -bush
STYLIDIACEAE	Levenhookia dubia - Hairy Stylewort
	Stylidium graminifolium - Grass Trigger-plant
THYMELAEACEAE	Pimelea hewardiana - Forked Rice-flower
	Pimelea humilis - Common Rice-flower

P. MURPHY

ANGLESEA EXCURSION

The November excursion to Anglesea for seaweed and shorelife required an early start to meet low water about 11.15 a.m.

Twelve members met Miss Mary White and Warwick Beanland, a marine biology student at Anglesea. We then reassembled at Point Roadknights for a beach/reef walk. Exploring the area between low and high water, much evidence of the power of waves was seen along the cliff-side and much seaweed was examined and discussed.

In many of the rock pools, small fish and shrimps were noted.

A few members had their feet well wetted by a breaking wave before all returned to the landward side of the dunes for lunch.

Following lunch, the party then moved to bushland along the highway, for further exploration. Mosquitoes there availed themselves of some rare, choice morsels not often met with. Despite the handicap, all were enthralled with the "garden", although the peak of flowering was about 2-3 weeks previous to our visit.

Masses of Red Beaks (Lyperanthus Nigricans), Tall Sun Orchids (Thelymitra grandiflora), Blotched Sun Orchids (Thelymitra fusco-lutea) and White and Greencomb Spider Orchids to name but a few of the flowers which enthralled us, were seen, despite the persistent mosquito attacks.

Moving onto Forest Road, many more blooms were noted.

Exploring, deeper into the forest, we were shown the area, under intensive study, where Lizard Orchids (Burnettia cuneata) were growing and with one plant still in full bloom.

Various other features were noted before we called a halt to a most enjoyable and rewarding day, thanks to Miss Mary White of "Angair".

P. Fry.

BIRD OBSERVERS GROUP (BENDIGO FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB)

REGENT HONEYEATER SURVEY

The regent honeyeater is thought to have declined to alarmingly low levels through much of its range. Nothing is known about the reasons for this decline and indeed, very little is known about the habits and requirements of this strickingly plumaged nomad.

The survey is gathering together as much information as possible on the habitat, food requirements, movements, etc. of the bird, in the hope that this will shed some light on its decline, or at least provide an information base for future research into the bird's decline. It is intended to publish the results in an appropriate magazine.

Some information has been obtained on over 700 sightings, but more detail is required as well as more records. It would be appreciated if members of the Field Naturalists' Club of Ballarat became aware of the survey work and the availability of the survey forms.

It is known that many records may consist of a few notes or memories, some long ago. Any information about specific records would be appreciated.

Survey forms are available from: Miss Helen Burgess,
Secretary,
Field Naturalists Club
of Ballarat.

THE DISTRIBUTION AND ECOLOGY OF THE BAW BAW FROG
WORLD WILDLIFE FUND OF AUSTRALIA PROJECT.

The Baw Baw frog is the only amphibian in Victoria which is classified as vulnerable. As it is known only from the Baw Baw plateau of Victoria, the animal appears to have a very limited distribution. Because of this and its unusual breeding and survival strategies, the Baw Baw frog is of great scientific interest.

However, despite its significance, the Baw Baw frog is under threat through destruction and disturbance of its habitat around ski resorts. Permanent damage to the natural vegetation in these areas continues to take place, particularly on downhill ski slopes. This project will provide management information to assist in the conservation of the Baw Baw frog.

The fieldwork for this project will involve surveying the habitat of the Baw Baw frog during its breeding season, (November to January) and determining the location of all calling males encountered in relation to the structure of the habitat. The study will concentrate on the reproductive strategies of the frog as these are the most critical aspects of its biology.

Within the range of preferred habitats used for breeding, reproductive success will be determined by monitoring selected clutches of eggs. A laboratory study will also be undertaken to determine the effects of a number of factors such as temperature and food availability on the size and survival of frog hatchlings.

This study is being sponsored by the Victorian Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.

(With acknowledgements to World Wildlife Fund in Australia).

The President and his
committee extend to all members,
families and friends Best
Wishes for a Very Happy Christmas
and a Prosperous New Year

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BHL

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